

Rural District of Marlborough  
and Ramsbury

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# ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1969



## MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (as at December, 1969)

Chairman: Councillor W. A. Brown, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor D. Gauntlett

Councillor Miss P. E. Courtman	Councillor Mrs. M. E. Knapp
Councillor Capt. K. A. H. Cummins	Councillor F. M. Lawton
Councillor R. N. Day	Councillor D. L. Lemon
Councillor Capt. E. Ennion	Councillor W. E. T. Lock
Councillor The Hon. Mrs. O. H. Frost, J.P.	Councillor M. S. Peacock
Councillor W. G. Grooby	Councillor The Rev. R. A. Robbins
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Councillor Lady Jameson	Councillor D. F. White
Councillor Major R. H. L. Wiggins	

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

*Medical Officer of Health:*

F. D. F. Steede, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

*Clerk:*

Miss G. M. Boswell

Council Offices, 1 The Green, Marlborough  
(Tel. 2487 and 2474)

*Chief Public Health Inspector:*

K. F. Hudson, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

*Additional Public Health Inspector:*

M. E. Northcombe, M.A.P.H.I.

*Building Inspector:*

C. Richards

*Rodent Officer:*

M. W. Welch

*Clerk:*

Mrs. G. E. Batty

Public Health Department, R.D.C. Offices, London Road, Marlborough  
(Tel. 2394)

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The Medical Officer of Health acts in a similar capacity for the Borough of Marlborough and the Rural Districts of Amesbury and Pewsey. These combined districts have a population of 73,590 and an area of 235,289 acres. They have appointed a Joint Committee, the East Wiltshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Committee, to deal with all matters relating to the office of Medical Officer of Health. The Medical Officer of Health also performs duties for the Wiltshire County Council under the National Health Service, Education and Mental Health Acts.

## RURAL DISTRICT OF MARLBOROUGH AND RAMSBURY

East Wilts (United Districts) Medical Officer of Health Office,

1 The Green,

Marlborough.

Telephone: Marlborough 2487 and 2474.

To The Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District:

*Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1969, which is compiled on similar lines as last year to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Health. I am grateful to Mr. Hudson, the Chief Public Health Inspector, for his report which is included. I am also indebted to Dr. Lycett, the County Medical Officer, for supplying me with details of immunisation procedures carried out, and to Mr. Hampshire, the Water Engineer, Borough of Swindon, for supplying me with a summary of bacterial and chemical analysis.

The district, with Marlborough Borough at its centre, extends for a distance of approximately fifteen miles east to west, and ten miles north to south, and much of it is situated on downland. The district is a very pleasant one, with attraction for visitors, containing as it does the Savernake Forest and part of the River Kennet valley for a great deal of its extent. It also has important archaeological remains, the best known which are probably the stone circle at Avebury, and Silbury Hill. There is little in the way of industry, since the district is predominantly a farming area of considerable importance, and what little there is, is mainly concerned with agriculture. A certain number of inhabitants however find their livelihood in industrial concerns in the nearby Borough of Swindon to the north-east. The district is important from the communication point of view, and is traversed by several main routes including for all its width the London to Bristol A4 road. The M4 extension due to be opened in 1971, also will pass through a small part of the area. The district is very fortunate in having the Savernake Hospital within two miles of Marlborough, in pleasant surroundings. A hospital of this size and type not only provides a centre for consultant out-patient facilities, but also adequate in-patient surgical and medical services for 90 per cent at least of all hospital admissions. This is most important in view of the increasing difficulty in the provision of adequate public transport, especially for the more remote villages, and the real hardship this causes for those who are forced to rely on it particularly the aged. In any case I firmly believe that where disease cannot be prevented it is best treated at home, and if this is not possible, as close to the home environment as possible. Not only is visiting made easier for relatives, but I am



convinced that re-habilitation is often a less difficult undertaking. I understand that consideration is being given to the future provision of geriatric facilities at this hospital. I should very much like to see this implemented, particularly for those who after assessment are found to be incapable of discharge to their own homes, or to Part III accommodation, the lack of which is frequently the cause of old people having to be retained occupying a hospital bed unnecessarily.

The general health of the area has given little cause for concern. The vital statistics show that there has been a slight reduction in the Registrar General's mid-year estimate of the population. This is in spite of the fact that 54 new houses were completed, and that the natural increase excess of births over deaths is fifty-five, and can only be due to the lessening demand for labour in agriculture, as a result of increasing mechanisation, and the tendency in some villages for cottage property which becomes vacant to be acquired as temporary week-end holiday accommodation. The illegitimate birth rate, I am glad to report, has fallen from last year's highest ever figure of 9.9 based on sixteen births, to 6.0 based on nine, and this is the first downward turn since 1964. I hope this trend will continue, but there is no doubt that permissiveness and promiscuity are as closely related as horse racing and betting, and also that promiscuity is an important factor in determining the illegitimate birth rate and the rising incidence of venereal disease. One wonders whether some of the influential enthusiasts for this controversial contemporary trend fully realise the problems facing the teenage unmarried mother, and the "built-in" handicaps for the average child of the unsupported mother, particularly where intelligence levels are low.

Deaths are down, and the adjusted death rate is again well below that of the rest of the country. In spite of the fact that the number of deaths are down, those from cancer of the lung were one more, all in males, or over a quarter of all deaths from cancer, while nearly a quarter of all the deaths were due to coronary heart disease. I believe in presenting the facts in attempting to educate the public on health matters, even if this means repetition. It is probable that none of these premature deaths from lung cancer would have occurred if it were not for the cigarette smoking habit, which we know is primarily responsible, not only for the incidence of lung cancer in about nine cases out of ten, but for a large proportion of coronary heart disease, particularly in the young smoker, and also is an extremely important factor in chronic bronchitis, a major scourge in middle and old age.

As far as infectious diseases are concerned notifications were very few, apart from measles, when for the second year running over 70 cases were notified. Unfortunately vaccination against measles had to be suspended for a time, due to the decision to withdraw the vaccine made by one of the two pharmaceutical firms concerned. There is little doubt that we have the means now in our hands to eliminate this disease, which in spite of the fact that it is usually mild, sometimes gives rise to unpleasant complications, and in recent years has been the leading infectious disease as a cause of death.

Immunisation returns are satisfactory and indicate that approximately 85 per cent at least of children are vaccinated with triple vaccine and polio vaccine before they reach the age of one year, and it may well be that this is a low figure due to possible discrepancies in recording. The County Health Department deserves a great deal of credit for this, due to its indefatigability in ensuring that all parents are notified when the various procedures are due, and to the health visitors for their part in following up the back-sliders. It has been my practice to undertake the vaccination of Council staff against influenza with the object of protecting the continuity of essential services, particularly those operated by outdoor staff, such as refuse collection, as they are liable to need a longer period of convalescence. At the time of writing some assessment has been made of the results of this procedure which shows that protection is very good indeed, particularly where two doses have been given.

Unfortunately action had to be taken in one instance under the National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47, as amended by the National Assistance Act, 1951, to secure the admission to hospital of an elderly man after all efforts at persuasion had failed.

Housing conditions are reasonably satisfactory. Although the number of applicants has shown a tendency to rise, as the Chief Public Health Inspector has pointed out, this does not necessarily mean a worsening of the position, since the Council accepts applications from residents outside the district. Undoubtedly too, there is a population drift from the country, which has been referred to earlier and this would be greater if accommodation were to become more readily available in the towns. This means that it is important not to over-build in rural areas and to site new houses where public transport is available. The Council quite rightly has continued their housing programme with the main emphasis on provision for the elderly, and has also given preliminary consideration to grouped warden accommodation which will be necessary in increasing extent. There are three caravan sites in the area, the licensed residential site at Avebury, the holiday site at Cadley, and the very unsatisfactory unlicensed gypsy site at Sound Bottom. Although the Avebury site complies with the current statutory requirements, a residential caravan in my opinion does not provide a satisfactory home environment in which to bring up a young family, particularly having regard to the climatic conditions in this country. Space is limited and almost all pose problems with regard to heating and condensation. At Sound Bottom there has been no change except in so far that there is now an existing responsibility for the County Council to provide suitable sites for this type of resident.

The standard of food hygiene is good, due to the close supervision of your Public Health Inspectors to this important matter. It is unfortunate that the only instance notified due to food poisoning on January 29/30th, should have been an extensive outbreak in a boys' school, when there were 56 cases notified or ascertained almost certainly due to a strain of *clostridium welchi* in meat used for making steak and kidney pudding, particularly as the kitchen is of a reasonably good standard since a rather similar outbreak due to the same cause occurred in May, 1967, in the same school.



The water supply generally throughout the district has been adequate, and with the exception of Buttermere a main supply is available to almost all parts of the district. During November the new works at Axford were commissioned and water from this source has been fed into the mains in the Ogbourne area during limited periods. The Swindon Water Department have had the pressure problem in the Baydon area under investigation, and as a result of this new works including a larger and somewhat higher water tower is to be constructed by the Thames Valley Water Board to improve the situation, as well as supplying the demands of the new Membury service area for the M4 motorway.

Delay in providing sewerage has been due to financial stringency, and not to the lack of will on the part of the Council. I should very much like to see the Kennet valley scheme put into operation without a great deal of further delay.

Refuse collection is a weekly kerbside collection using conventional dustbins. As soon as finance permits it should be replaced by disposable sacks collected from the premises, and there may be a case now for supplying disposable sacks to certain classes of residents, particularly the aged and frail, although many make satisfactory arrangements with their neighbours.

I am very grateful to the members of the Council for their continued support and for the kindness and co-operation of all the officers of the Council in a year fraught with difficulties and uncertainty, in which the shadow cast by reorganisation has been a major factor. The future of Public Health is very much in the melting pot, and although some changes are desirable, I feel that we are in danger in some respects of "throwing out the baby with the bath water". I regret any dissociation in the relationship between the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspectorate. A view I believe shared by many of the rank and file, in view of its certain adverse effect on environmental health in its widest context at a time when "conservation" is a topic very much to the fore in the minds of many thinking people. The organisation of Public Health with a Medical Officer of Health exercising general direction over the work of the Public Health Inspectorate, a pattern adopted by many progressive countries, has contributed very largely to the position that, in the light of current knowledge, we are in this country at least aware of our pollution problems, both nationally and locally, and have been able to find a satisfactory solution to many of them, in spite of difficulties posed either by their complexity, or the lack of necessary finance. Sometimes the reasons why actions to improve public health are not implemented are difficult to understand. Fluoridation is a case in point, since this well proven public health measure would reduce the appalling amount of dental caries by approximately 50 per cent in the rising generation at trivial cost relative to the cost of dental disease, and with complete safety.

Finally I should specifically like to thank Mr. Hudson and his staff, Dr. Lishman for acting as my Deputy, Dr. Wormald and his staff of the Public Health Laboratory for their continued help and frequent valued advice, and my secretary, Miss Boswell for her help and co-operation, particularly for her work in preparing this annual report.

I have the honour to be,

*Your obedient servant,*

F. D. F. STEEDE,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres ... ..	94,510
Number of Parishes ... ..	25
Population, Registrar-General's mid-year estimate ...	10,520
Number of inhabited houses, flats and bungalows ...	3,692
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1969 ... ..	£252,236
Product of a Penny Rate (estimated) ... ..	£975

VITAL STATISTICS					M.	F.	Total
LIVE BIRTHS—	Legitimate	...	...	...	81	60	141
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	6	3	9
Totals					87	63	150
Live birth rate per 1,000 population ... ..							14.3
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ...							6.0
Stillbirths—	Legitimate	...	...	...	1	3	4
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	1	1
Totals					1	4	5
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths ...							32.0
Total live and stillbirths—	Legitimate	...	...	...	82	63	145
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	6	4	10
Totals					88	67	155
DEATHS (of all ages) ... ..					51	44	95
Death rate per 1,000 population ... ..							9.0
Infant deaths under one year—	Legitimate	...	...	...	1	2	3
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Totals					1	2	3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ..							20.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births ...							21.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...							—
Neonatal deaths (under four weeks)—	Legitimate	...	...	...	1	2	3
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Totals					1	2	3
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ..							20.0
Early neonatal deaths (under one week)—	Legitimate	...	...	...	1	2	3
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Totals					1	2	3
Early neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ..							20.0
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) ...							52.0
Maternal mortality (including abortion) ... ..							—

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Infant deaths ...	4	2	2	1	3
Infant mortality rate ...	21.9	12.5	13.0	6.0	20.0

## CAUSES OF DEATH, 1969

<i>Cause of death</i>					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
B19 (3)	Malignant neoplasm—stomach	...	...	...	1	—	1
B19 (4)	Malignant neoplasm—intestine	...	...	...	1	—	1
B19 (6)	Malignant neoplasm—lung, bronchus	...	...	...	4	—	4
B19 (7)	Malignant neoplasm—breast	...	...	...	—	3	3
B19 (11)	Other malignant neoplasms	...	...	...	3	3	6
B23	Anaemias	...	...	...	1	—	1
B46 (4)	Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	...	...	...	—	2	2
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	...	...	...	—	1	1
B27	Hypertensive disease	...	...	...	4	1	5
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	...	...	...	12	10	22
B29	Other forms of heart disease	...	...	...	2	5	7
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	...	...	...	5	3	8
B46 (5)	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	1	4	5
B31	Influenza	...	...	...	2	1	3
B32	Pneumonia	...	...	...	4	4	8
B33 (1)	Bronchitis and emphysema	...	...	...	4	1	5
B36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	...	...	...	—	1	1
B46 (9)	Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	...	...	...	2	—	2
B46 (10)	Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	...	...	...	1	—	1
B42	Congenital anomalies	...	...	...	—	2	2
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	...	...	...	1	—	1
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	...	...	...	—	1	1
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	—	1	1
BE48	All other accidents	...	...	...	—	1	1
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	...	...	...	3	—	3
Total all causes					51	44	95

### Comparison with England and Wales

	<i>per 1,000 population</i>		<i>per 1,000 Live Births</i>	<i>per 1,000 Total Births</i>
	<i>Live Births (Adjusted)</i>	<i>Death Rate (Adjusted)</i>	<i>Infant Mortality</i>	<i>Stillbirths</i>
Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D.	15.7	8.8	20.0	32.0
England and Wales	16.3	11.9	18.0	13.0

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION STATISTICS, 1969

Diphtheria, Whooping cough, Tetanus, Measles and Poliomyelitis  
Immunisation

<i>Year of birth</i>		1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1960 -64	1954 -59	Others under 16
Primary immunisations completed during 1969	Diph.	63	65	1	—	1	10	1	—
	Wh./c.	63	65	1	—	—	6	1	—
	Tet.	63	65	1	—	1	13	4	1
	M'sles	1	17	54	24	12	26	3	—
	Polio.	62	67	4	—	1	5	—	—
Reinforcing immunisations given in 1969	Diph.	—	46	65	6	9	99	2	—
	Wh./c.	—	41	40	6	1	7	—	—
	Tet.	—	46	65	6	9	108	8	9
	Polio.	—	42	49	6	10	83	4	1

Smallpox Vaccination

Age Group	<i>Months</i>				<i>Years</i>		
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-15
Vaccinations	—	—	—	1	66	44	4
Re-vaccinations	—	—	—	—	—	—	24



# WATER SUPPLY

(A report by Mr. Hampshire, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., Water Engineer, Borough of Swindon)

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER

Summary of results on samples taken before (raw) and after (final) chlorination

SOURCE	Total Samples Taken		Samples in which Coliforms were absent in 100 ml.		Samples in which E. Coli Type 1 were absent in 100 ml.	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Axford—raw ...	6	5	83	6	100	100
final ...	4	4	100	4	100	100
Clatford—raw ...	51	49	96	49	96	96
final ...	50	50	100	50	100	100
Great Bedwyn—raw ...	50	46	92	47	94	94
final ...	51	51	100	51	100	100
Marlborough—raw ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
final ...	50	50	100	50	100	100
Ogbourne—raw ...	92	55	60	82	89	89
final ...	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ramsbury—raw ...	50	49	98	49	98	98
final ...	47	47	100	47	100	100

# CHEMICAL AND MINERAL EXAMINATION OF WATER

Summary of results on samples of Final Water (parts per million)

	Date of Sample	Chlorides	Non- Carbonate		Total Hardness	Nitrate Nitrogen	Nitrite Nitrogen	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Albuminoid Nitrogen	Oxygen Absorbed	Natural Fluoride (where recorded)
			Hardness	Hardness							
Axford											
Clatford	8 Jan.	10	40	250	4.7	absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
	15 July	10	35	245	4.8	absent	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.10	0.1
Great Bedwyn	13 Jan.	12	75	320	7.8	absent	0.00	0.04	—	—	—
	15 July	14	60	315	7.2	absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.1
Marlborough	8 Jan.	9	30	250	3.6	absent	0.00	0.00	—	—	—
	15 July	9	25	245	3.5	absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.1
Ogbourne	8 Jan.	17	100	380	7.7	absent	0.02	0.00	—	—	—
	21 July	17	70	370	6.2	under 0.01	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	—
Ramsbury	13 Jan.	8	25	235	4.1	absent	0.00	0.00	—	—	—
	15 July	10	15	235	3.8	absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1969

Disease	Total cases all ages	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Analysis of total cases in age groups												
				Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65+	Age unknown
Acute encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Anthrax ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Infective jaundice ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Leprosy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Leptospirosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	77	...	...	2	7	5	7	11	41	3	...	1	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tetanus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis, other	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Typhoid fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yellow fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	79	1	...	2	7	5	7	11	42	3	...	1	...	1	...	...



# MARLBOROUGH AND RAMSBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

To: The Chairman and Members of the Council.

*Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I have the pleasure in presenting my 21st Annual Report on the administration of the Public Health Department, during 1969.

As always I should like to place on record my appreciation of the ready help and assistance given me by the members of my staff.

My thanks too, to Dr. Steede, Mr. A. G. Hunt and all members of the Council's staff for their assistance when required.

*I am, Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient servant,*

KENNETH F. HUDSON,

*Chief Public Health Inspector.*

# **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR 1969**

## **HOUSING**

### **General**

During the twelve month period commencing 1st January, 1969, and terminating on 31st December, 1969, a total of 53 new dwellings was completed. Of this number 25 were erected for the Council, a 66% increase over the previous year, and 28 were for private enterprise.

The decrease in private enterprise dwellings must I am sure be due to the prevailing economic situation.

The larger villages again cornered the majority of the building, but this is to be expected with only the odd site being approved elsewhere and then usually in connection with an agricultural holding.

There were 192 applicants on the Council House waiting list at 31st December, 1969, having applied for the tenancy of a Council House. This is an increase over last year's figure, but does not reflect a worsening of conditions within the district. Many of the applicants live in improved dwellings, or with relatives, whilst others live outside this Rural District.

### **Slum Clearance**

Demolition orders were made in respect of three properties, and two dwellings were closed as a result of Orders made in the previous year.

### **Housing Improvement Grants**

The introduction of the higher grants, made possible by the Housing Act, 1969, has not yet significantly affected the number of houses being improved with the aid of a grant. During the year, 11 Standard Grants were approved, and 8 Improvement Grants.

The indications are that as financial restrictions ease, more people will take advantage of the higher limit Grants, but only time will tell.

### **Housing Survey**

Routine detailed inspection of houses within the District has continued throughout the year. Defects found were brought to the attention of the owners and subsequently remedied. This routine inspection also served to keep records of property up to date and to reveal the lack of standard amenities.

As stated last year, the percentage of houses without standard amenities is very low and does not present a real problem. This is to be expected in an area of low density population and of scenic appeal, where even remote cottages tend to be improved as weekend retreats.

## **WATER SUPPLIES**

There has been no change in the arrangements for the supply of public water which continues as in previous years, to be supplied by the Swindon Corporation, and the Thames Valley Water Board.

The six main schemes are piped to most of the dwellings in the district and are as described:

### **Avebury Supply**

Water is supplied to the parishes of Preshute, Fyfield, West Overton, East Kennett, Avebury, Winterbourne Monkton, Berwick Bassett, Winterbourne Bassett and Broad Hinton, from this supply. The pumping station is situated at Clatford and pumps water from boreholes 150 feet deep in the chalk to a reservoir on Totterdown.

### **Baydon Supply**

This supplies the parish of Baydon and the water is obtained from Berkshire. The water is chlorinated at the pumping station and pumped to a tower at Baydon. Practically the whole parish is connected to the supply.

### **Bedwyn Supply**

This scheme supplies water to the villages of Chisbury, Great Bedwyn, Ham, Shalbourne, Wilton and Grafton. It also supplies a farm and several cottages at St. Katherine's in the Pewsey Rural District.

The water is pumped from boreholes at Little Bedwyn to two reservoirs, one at Chisbury and the other at Shalbourne. The water is taken from the lower chalk and is chlorinated at the pumping station.

### **Ogbourne Supply**

The water for this supply is obtained at Whitefield, Ogbourne St. George. The water is boosted to a reservoir on the Downs and gravitates to the two parishes of Ogbourne St. Andrew and Ogbourne St. George, and to the Military Camp. The majority of the properties in both parishes are connected to the mains. The water is chlorinated at Whitefield.

### **Ramsbury Supply**

This scheme supplies water to the parishes of Aldbourne, Chilton Foliat, Froxfield, Mildenhall, and Ramsbury. The water is pumped from boreholes in the chalk at Ramsbury to a reservoir north of the village and is chlorinated at the pumping station.

### **Savernake Supply**

The water is re-pumped at Postern Hill from the well supply serving the Borough of Marlborough. The main runs from the top of Postern Hill through Savernake Forest to Iron Gates and supplies Savernake Hospital, two farms and various houses and cottages. The water is chlorinated at the pumping station.



Water Samples

Monthly samples are taken throughout the year by this department, from each supply, varying the sample point on that supply to ensure a wholesome, palatable drinking water is available at all times.

All samples taken, including the samples for Chemical Analysis, were satisfactory.

Sampling Report

<i>Supply</i>				<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>	<i>No. of Samples Satisfactory</i>	<i>No. of Samples Slightly Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>No. of Samples Not Satisfactory</i>
Avebury	...	...	...	13	13	—	—
Baydon	...	...	...	13	13	—	—
Bedwyn	...	...	...	13	13	—	—
Ogbourne	...	...	...	13	13	—	—
Ramsbury	...	...	...	13	13	—	—
Savernake	...	...	...	13	13	—	—
Totals				78	78	—	—

The following table gives the numbers of dwelling-houses and population supplied from the public water mains. There are no standpipes in the District.

<i>Parishes</i>				<i>Direct to Houses</i>	
				<i>Houses</i>	<i>Population</i>
Aldbourne	...	...	...	441	1,323
Avebury	...	...	...	139	417
Baydon	...	...	...	116	348
Berwick Bassett	...	...	...	15	45
Broad Hinton	...	...	...	76	228
Chilton Foliat	...	...	...	87	261
East Kennett	...	...	...	15	45
Froxfield	...	...	...	91	273
Fyfield	...	...	...	28	84
Grafton	...	...	...	111	333
Great Bedwyn	...	...	...	301	903
Ham	...	...	...	24	72
Little Bedwyn	...	...	...	38	114
Mildenhall	...	...	...	101	303
Ogbourne St. Andrew	...	...	...	71	213
Ogbourne St. George	...	...	...	101	303
Preshute	...	...	...	8	24
Ramsbury	...	...	...	436	1,308
Savernake	...	...	...	7	21
Shalbourne	...	...	...	134	402
West Overton	...	...	...	133	399
Winterbourne Bassett	...	...	...	39	117
Winterbourne Monkton	...	...	...	44	132
Totals				2,556	7,668

In addition to the public supplies there are a number of private piped supplies which are also satisfactory.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Public sewerage is provided to the villages of Aldbourne, Baydon, Broad Hinton, Chilton Foliat, Froxfield, Grafton, Great Bedwyn, Ramsbury, Shalbourne, and Wilton. Over 90% of those in a position to be connected are connected to the sewer.

The scheme for Phase II which includes the Kennett Valley from Avebury to Fyfield is still waiting for permission from the Minister to proceed.

In addition, some work has been carried out on Phase III sewerage. This, when completed, will have dealt with the largest centres of population within the district.

Apart from these, there are a number of Housing Manual Schemes, which provide sewerage to housing estates.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE

maintained throughout the year. The bulk of this refuse has been taken to

A weekly collection of household refuse from all parishes has been Knowle Tip, the one at Stockclose having been closed temporarily because of fire. Refuse is placed in a nearby constructed compound adjacent to a hard road to obviate the damage to vehicle tyres and the problem of lorries becoming stuck on the soft surface in bad weather. The refuse is moved to the tip face and covered by the tracked mechanical shovel.

As last year the vehicles employed on collection are one 50 cu. yard, and one 35 cu. yard refuse lorries. The side loader has been retained to relieve at Bank Holidays, in case of emergency and for special collections.

The collection of salvage was continued and it will be noted that the income is again down. The reduced amount of paper collected yielded a higher income due to an upswing in the price but the value of metals dropped slightly as did the amount available for collection.

### Salvage Collected

	1968						1969					
	Weight			Value			Weight			Value		
	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Paper	71	13	0	518	18	8	65	17	3	534	10	5
Rags	1	13	3	16	16	10	1	9	1	14	13	1
Scrap Iron	45	0	2	81	7	1	30	1	1	37	3	5
Totals	118	7	1	£617	2	7	97	8	1	586	6	11

## FOOD

### Food Premises

The food premises within the district at the end of the year were as follows:

Bakehouses	...	...	3
Butchers	...	...	5
Cafes	...	...	6
Caterers (licensed)	...	...	8
Confectioners	...	...	6
Fishmongers	...	...	2
Greengrocers	...	...	3
Grocers	...	...	35
Public Houses	...	...	23
Others	...	...	5
			96

Three grocery businesses, one bakehouse and one butchery, have closed down during the year. A new business for the preparation of raw vegetables for sale to catering premises was opened.

Inspection of all premises continued throughout the year when conditions were found to be generally satisfactory and the standard of hygiene was good.

### Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

(1) Number of premises	...	...	...	96
(2) Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	...	...	...	89
(3) Number of premises to which Reg. 19 applies	...	...	...	96
(4) Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19	...	...	...	96

Separate hand washing facilities have been provided in one shop additional to those reported last year, thus the overall figure, whilst appearing lower, is due to closures and is in fact an improvement on last year. Those remaining without separate facilities are small establishments used in conjunction with domestic premises, where such facilities are available and adequate.

### Registered Premises

Number of premises registered under Section 16 of Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice-cream	...	...	43
Number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the manufacture of preserved foods	...	...	5

### Poultry Inspection

The poultry processing plant within this area has not been on full output for much of the year and whilst the total throughput has not dropped so much as may have been expected, the plant was only in full production over the latter months of the year. Regular visits were made to the plant and the quality of the birds produced has remained high.

The number of birds processed are as follows:

Turkeys	...	...	73,092
Hens	...	...	2,827
Ducks	...	...	Nil
Total			75,919



0.16 per cent were rejected as unfit for human consumption, the weight of poultry condemned being as follows:

Turkeys	...	...	1,397 lbs.
Hens	...	...	80 lbs.
Total			1,477 lbs.

MILK

There were 13 dealers retailing milk in the area during the year, some selling from shops only with no milk round. As previously the majority of the milk sold within the district is imported from Berkshire.

Sampling

The samples taken during the year were as follows:

	Standard Test		BIOLOGICAL			
			Tubercle bacillus		Brucella abortus	
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Untreated	34	2	17	—	17	—
Pasteurised	120	5	—	—	—	—
Totals	154	7	17	—	17	—

The unsatisfactory raw milk samples were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods, and were satisfactory on resampling. The unsatisfactory pasteurised samples were due to high overnight temperature at the Laboratory and not to inefficient pasteurisation.

DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

The systematic inspection of farm buildings, business premises and local authority sewers and sites within the area continued throughout the year, when regular treatments were carried out where necessary. A small percentage of the private houses were treated for individual minor infestations of rats and mice and other pests.

In all cases the use of Warfarin has remained effective.

	Local Authorities	Private Properties	Farms	Business Properties	Total
No. of inspections made	62	888	212	103	1,265
No. of properties inspected ...	17	888	198	103	1,206
No. of properties infested with rats ...	22	163	32	22	239
No. of properties infested with mice ...	—	17	—	—	17
No. of treatments ...	22	180	32	22	256

Total number of visits made under the Damage by Pests Act, 1949—2,031.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

No flagrant contraventions of the Act were discovered during the year. All premises have generally been found to be satisfactory and minor omissions have been dealt with informally at the time of the visit.

96 inspections were made during the year and the premises registered are as follows:

				<i>Employees</i>			
				<i>Number</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Offices	...	...	...	24	27	42	69
Retail Shops	...	...	...	29	25	28	53
Wholesale Shops	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	7	13	25	38
Fuel Storage Depots	...	...	...	2	9	1	10
				—	—	—	—
Totals				62	74	96	170
				—	—	—	—

## FACTORIES ACT, 1961

There are 28 factories registered within the district of various types. 3 are classified as non-power, and 25 as factories with power.

The Local Authority continues to be responsible for the administration of the Act in the non-power factories and for the sections relating to the sanitary accommodation in the factories with power, whilst the factories Inspectorate are responsible for the remaining sections.

25 inspections were made during the year when conditions were found to be in general compliance with the Act.

### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR 1969

Bakehouses	...	...	...	9
Building Regulations:				
Commencements	...		88	
Foundations	...	...	111	
Damp-proof course	...		51	
Drains	...	...	230	
Work in Progress	...		877	
Completion	...	...	157	
Unclassified	...	...	138	
		Total	<u>1,652</u>	
Butchers' Shops	...	...		8
Cafes, etc.	...	...		42
Council House Enquiries		...		35
Factories	...	...		25
Food Premises	...	...		258
Housing	...	...		753
Housing Improvement Grants	...			75
Infectious Disease	...	...		15
Milk Samples	...	...		127
Milk and Dairies	...	...		23
Nuisances	...	...		176
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises				96
Petroleum	...	...		141
Pest Control	...	...		2,033
Refuse Collection	...	...		107
Tents, Vans and Sheds		...		51
Town Planning	...	...		253
Water Supply	...	...		14
Water Samples	...	...		85
Unclassified	...	...		131
		Totals	<u>4,457</u>	



# FACTORIES ACT, 1961

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1969 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF MARLBOROUGH AND RAMSBURY IN THE COUNTY OF WILTSHIRE

### Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

#### PART I OF THE ACT

1—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	19	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	28	25	—	—

2—Cases in which *Defects* were found:

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found  (2)	Remedied  (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	1	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not includ- ing offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	2	1	—	—	—

**PART VIII OF THE ACT**

(Sections 133 and 134)

NIL RETURN







